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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

SS - 39

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## LIVESTOCK NUMBERS DOWN 3 PERCENT

The annual inventory of livestock, as of January 1, 1946, showed some continued declining last year. In terms of animal units, equivalent to one horse or cow, the total number of livestock was 3 percent smaller on January 1 than a year ago and about 8 1/2 percent below the record high two years ago.

In terms of grain-consuming units, numbers are about like a year ago, more hogs offsetting fewer cattle and sheep. Supply of feed grains January 1, per animal unit, (including chickens) was about 5 percent smaller than a year ago. Hay supplies much larger.

Total value of livestock this year 8,923 million dollars, up 9 percent from year ago.

## WORK STOCK STILL DECLINING

Number of horses on farms January 1, 1946 was 8.3 million, compared with 8.8 million year ago and 10.6 million, the 1935-44 average. Number of mules 3.2 million, against 3.4 million year ago and 4.1 average. Horses started to decrease 30 years ago and are steadily disappearing from the farms. Colt crop in 1946 was down 25 percent, smallest number ever raised.

## FEWER CATTLE

Number of all cattle January 1 was 79.8 million head, compared with 81.9 million year ago and 71 million average. Cattle numbers are in the downward movement of the cycle and are being adjusted to feed and market conditions.

Number of milk cows 26.8 million, compared with 27.7 million year ago and 25.6 million average. Number of milk heifers and heifer calves also declined last year. Beef cows and heifers over two years old increased.

## SHARP DROP IN SHEEP

Number of sheep 44.2 million, compared with 47.8 million year ago and 52.8 average. Most of the decrease was in breeding ewes one year old and over, which will be reflected in sharply smaller 1946 lamb crop. Stock sheep numbers now lowest since 1926.

## HOGS INCREASING

Number of hogs 62.3 million, compared with 59.8 million year ago, 83.8 two years ago and 55.3 million average. Increase was in Corn Belt, other areas showed decreases. Average value this year \$24 per hog, \$3.30 above year ago and highest January 1 value on record. Total farm hog inventory

this year nearly 1 1/2 billion dollars, exceeded only in 1943.

## HEAVY WINTER EGG PRODUCTION

The annual livestock inventory, as of January 1, 1946, showed total numbers of chickens on farms 525 million, compared with 511 million year ago and 448 million for 1935-44 average. Number turkeys 8.7 million, compared with 7.3 million year ago and 6.8 million average.

Number of laying hens during January averaged 413 million birds, 1 percent under year ago but 17 percent above 10-year average. Number of potential layers February 1 (hens of laying age plus young pullets) 444 million birds, 1 percent above year ago and 7 percent above 1940-44 average. During January 25.2 million hens were sold out of farm flocks compared with 27.6 million year ago. Pullets not of laying age February 1, were 34.8 million birds, 24 percent above year ago but 1 percent below 5-year average.

Farmers on February 1 reported intention to buy 14 percent fewer baby chicks this year than they bought in 1945.

Hens laid 4,214 million eggs in January, 2 percent more than year ago and 49 percent above 1935-44 average (but 6 percent under record January production in 1944). Egg production up in all parts of country except South. Egg production during January averaged 10.2 eggs per layer, new record for the month, compared with 9.9 year ago and 7.9 for the 10-year average. Good weather and good feeding accounted for the heavy production.

## MILK PRODUCTION

Milk production during January totaled 8.6 million pounds, 3 percent under January 1945 and lowest for the month since 1941. January production averaged 1.98

pounds daily per capita, compared with 2.06 pounds daily per capita year ago. Milk flow per cow continued only slightly below high figure of January 1942 but number of cows is decreasing. For the United States the percentage of milk cows being milked February 1 (63.4 percent) was lowest in 21 years of record. Dairymen handicapped by shortage of labor and high wages and in East by lack of feed.

Total milk production in 1945 about 123 billion pounds, compared with about 119 billion previous year. Preliminary indication for 1946 around 118.5 billion. Butter production in 1945, farm & factory, 1.7 billion

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	DEC. 15 1945	JAN. 15 1946	JAN. 15 1946
Wheat, bu. . . . . dol.	1.54	1.54	1.56
Corn, bu. . . . . dol.	1.09	1.10	.706
Peanuts, lb. . . . . ct.	8.32	8.37	8.50
Cotton, lb. . . . . ct.	22.84	22.36	21.95
Potatoes, bu. . . . . dol.	1.37	1.45	1.29
Hogs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	14.20	14.10	12.90
Beef cattle, 100 lb. . . dol.	11.50	11.80	9.59
Veal calves, 100 lb. . . dol.	13.50	13.60	11.90
Lambs, 100 lb. . . . . dol.	12.90	13.00	10.40
Butterfat, lb. . . . . ct.	50.5	50.7	48.4
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. . dol.	3.40	3.38	3.00
Chickens, live, lb. . . . ct.	23.8	23.5	20.2
Eggs, doz. . . . . ct.	48.2	41.1	38.9

<sup>1</sup>Adjusted for seasonal variation.



pounds, compared with 1.8 billion in 1944 and nearly 2.2 billion 1935-39 average. 1946 indication under 1.6 billion pounds.

#### LESS GRAIN ON HAND

Stocks of *wheat* in all positions, including stocks on farms, totaled 689 million bushels on January 1, 1946, compared with 835 million a year previous and 818 million two years previous. Total stocks of *corn* same date 1,976 million bushels, compared with 2,180 million year ago and 2,021 million two years ago. Stocks of *oats* 1,077 million bushels, compared with 792 million year ago and 753 million two years ago. *Barley* stocks 192 million bushels, compared with 213 million year ago and 218 million two years ago. *Rye* 15 million bushels, compared with 27 million year ago and 43 million two years ago. Combined stocks of these five grains total 3,949 million bushels, of which 3,422 million were on farms.

*Disappearance* of wheat during the last three months of 1945 was about 341 million bushels, compared with 254 million in same period 1944 and 297 million in 1943. Disappearance of corn same three months was about 1,047 million bushels, compared with 937 million in like period 1944 and 1,091 in 1943.

#### FATS AND OILS PROSPECT

Butter production at low ebb. Creamery butter output in December 25 percent below year ago and smallest December figure since 1920. Some indication of butter output in 1946 possibly 50 to 100 million pounds above 1945, but around 400 million under 1937-41 average. Retail price average around 55¢ a pound.

Lard output for 1946 tentatively forecast at 2,450 million pounds, 350 million pounds, over 1945. Increase predicated on moderate increase in hog slaughter and normal weights. 1946 output will be much below the 3 billion pounds of 1943 and 1944. Total supply of lard for domestic use may be about like last year.

Total supply of corn, cottonseed, peanut and soybean oils 1946 may be about like 1945. Less cottonseed oil from last year's crop but stocks of edible oils on hand larger than year ago (November stocks 582 million pounds, 83 million over previous year).

Supplies of domestic soap fats probably somewhat smaller this year than last. November stocks of inedible tallow and greases 172 million pounds, 125 million under previous year. However, military took soap equivalent to 300 million pounds of fat in 1945, which figure will be much smaller in 1946. Major improvement in soap fat supply awaits Philippine copra.

Supply of drying oils will be larger in 1946, due chiefly to more linseed oil (600 million pounds likely, against 400 to 450 million last year) and increased tung-oil imports.

#### CITRUS CROP UP SLIGHTLY

Production of all citrus fruits in the United States for the 1945-46 season estimated 187 million boxes, 5 percent above previous season and 50 percent above 1934-43 average. Total *orange* crop 106 million boxes, compared with last year's record crop of 109 million boxes. *Grapefruit* crop 4.3 million boxes, compared with 3.75 million last season. California lemons forecast 14.1 million boxes, compared with 12.6 million last season.

#### NUMBER FARM WORKERS DOWN — WAGES HIGH

Number of farm workers January 1 (the slack season) 7,732,000, compared with 8,005,000 year earlier. Employment fell off about 1 1/2 million from December to January. Number of *family* workers 6,412,000, compared with 6,571,000 year earlier and 7,159,000 January average 1935-39. Number of *hired* workers on farms 1,320,000 compared with 1,434,000 year ago and 1,675,000 the January 1935-39 average. Average U. S. *farm wage* January 1, per day without board, \$4.40 compared with \$4.15 year earlier and \$1.50 the 1935-39 annual average.

Placements of World War II veterans on farms as hired hands or tenants, January through November 1945 was 29,485.

Number of foreign workers on farms January 1: Mexicans 22,895, Jamaicans 4,715, Bahamians 4,168, Newfoundlanders 848, Prisoners of War 47,763, total 80,389.

#### FARM INCOME

Farm income from products sold during November 2,258 million dollars, compared with 2,256 previous November. The November income included 43 million dollars Government payments, compared with 68 million year earlier. Farm income for 11 months January-November 19,692 million dollars, compared with 19,291 million in same period 1944. These figures included 763 million dollars Government payments in the 1945 period and 760 million previous year.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	JAN. 1946
Prices received by farmers . .	1910-14 = 100	206
Prices paid by farmers, interest and taxes . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	177
Parity ratio . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	116
Wholesale prices of food . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 168
Retail prices of food . . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>1</sup> 181
Farm wage rates . . . . .	1910-14 = 100	347
Weekly factory earnings . . .	1910-14 = 100	<sup>2</sup> 365
RATIOS	LONG-TIME JAN. - AVERAGE	JAN. 1946
Hog-corn ratio, U. S. . . . .	12.3	12.8
Butterfat-feed ratio, U. S. . .	25.2	29.1
Milk-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	1.32	1.49
Egg-feed ratio, U. S. . . . .	12.7	13.8
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	JAN. - DEC. 1944	JAN. - DEC. 1945
Milk, (Bil. lb.) . . . . .	119	123.3
Eggs, (Bil.) <sup>o</sup> . . . . .	57.9	55.2
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) . . .	6,655	7,240
Lamb Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	887	913
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.) . . . .	12,698	8,189
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	21,166	17,165

<sup>1</sup> December figure.

<sup>2</sup> Factory pay roll per employed worker adjusted for seasonal variation. November figure.

For more detailed information, write the Division of Economic Information, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or telephone Republic 4142 — Branch 4407.